

PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *UTA* FROM NEVADA.

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The Walker-Newcomb Expedition of the University of Michigan, in the summer of 1912, obtained a large series of *Utas* in northeastern Nevada that appear to represent a well-defined subspecies of *Uta stansburiana*. None of the several names in the synonymy of the typical form can be applied to this race.

***Uta stansburiana nevadensis* subsp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Similar to *Uta stansburiana* in size, proportions and scalation, except that the dorsal scales are less strongly keeled and smaller, the distance from the end of the snout to the notch in the posterior side of the occipital plate being equal to 25-30 scales on the middle of the back as compared with 18-23 in the *Uta stansburiana*. Dorsal scales increasing in size posteriorly from the head but still pearl-like above for some distance behind the shoulders; on the back feebly keeled, the keels often being almost tubercular. Femoral pores 12-15 in 28 specimens, average 13.6. Tail 1.45-1.84 times length of head and body in 22 specimens, average 1.66. Ground color above dark to pale olive (generally about 163* or 167 to 172 or a little lighter) relieved by many small spots (about the size of four scales) of pale greenish blue (367), and generally by many small black spots (about the size of two scales) that are seldom well defined and exhibit a tendency to be arranged in four rows, two on each side of the back. On the sides numerous rounded or vertically elongated spots that are dull yellowish (203d) in the females, and orange (91) above and dark red (82) below in the males, the latter color also suffusing the sides of the belly. A single row of dark cross bars on the tail. A dark stripe through the eye and one below the eye, both continued on the temples; occasionally a faint indication of a light stripe between the two and of another below the lower one, but these never distinct on the neck or indicated on the body. Belly dull white in the females and young males, becoming bluish in old males. Throat in females white or dusky, barred with bluish slate and white or pale orange, in the males dark blue (sometimes 394) in gular region with numerous lateral bars of bluish

* Code des Couleurs, Klincksieck et Valette, Paris.

slate and red (82) or orange (91). Sides of neck and proximal half of anterior face of arms in both males and females with numerous spots of white, orange or red, according to development of these colors on the chin and throat. Black axillary spot distinct but not sharply defined or definitely margined with a lighter color.

Habitat.—Cortez and River Ranges near Carlin, Nevada.

Type-specimen.—Cat. No. 43,848, University of Michigan Museum of Natural History; Cortez Range west of Carlin, Nevada, July 13, 1912. F. Gaige, collector.

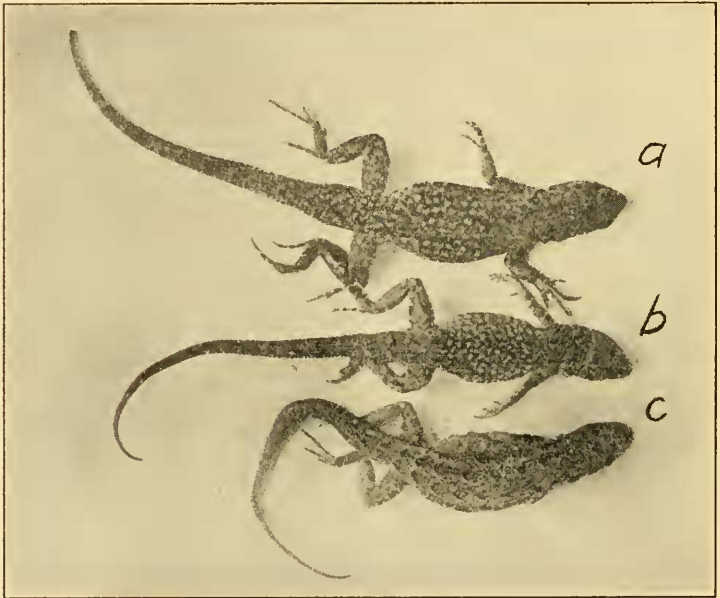


Fig. 1.—Photograph of *Uta stansburiana nevadensis* (a and b) and *Uta stansburiana* (c) to show difference in color pattern.

Description of Type-specimen.—Adult male. Head and body 51 mm., tail 84 mm. Body and head depressed. Upper head plates large and smooth and somewhat convex; interparietal largest; four enlarged supraoculars, separated from frontal by one row of granules; frontal divided transversely; a pair of prefrontals preceded by three large hexagonal plates and these in turn by six small plates in pairs. Four supralabials and five infralabials to below the eye. Gular scales smooth, scales on edge of fold enlarged. Lateral neck scales granular, grading into somewhat larger ones on the dorsal surface. Dorsals increasing in size from the head posteriorly, but still small and not distinctly keeled above the shoulders. Dorsal body scales small and feebly keeled, about 27 equaling the distance from the end of the snout to posterior margin of the interparietal, becoming smaller laterally and larger near the tail.

Ground color dark olive (163) relieved by small spots of pale blue (367). Small dark spots only faintly indicated. Sides above the fold spotted with pale orange (91), and below the fold with red (82), the latter color suffusing the sides of the belly. Axillary spots glossy black, not margined with lighter. Tail with faint cross bars. Head brownish olive (155). Belly grayish slate; gular region dark blue; edge of gular fold and spots or short bars on the sides of the chin and neck and on the anterior face of the arm pale orange (91).

Notes on Paratypes.—There are 53 paratypes and in this series there is little variation, particularly in the distinctive characters. As already stated, the dorsal scales vary slightly in size, 25–30 in the length of the head from the posterior margin of the interparietal. The tail is 1.45–1.84 times the total length, average in 22 specimens 1.66. The femoral pores vary from 12–15, average in 28 specimens 13.6. The coloration is very constant. The ground color above runs from light to dark brownish olive, which causes the small spots of blue and black to vary in conspicuousness, but they are always approximately of relatively the same size and shape even in the newly born, and the blue spots are nearly always conspicuous.

Remarks.—There can be no doubt of the distinctness of this form from *Uta stansburiana*. The most conspicuous difference is in the color pattern which is remarkably constant in our material (Fig. 1). Occasional specimens of the typical form have a similar color pattern, but in none of the collections that the writer has examined are the dark U-shaped blotches and the lateral stripes persistently absent or the blue spots so large and generally distributed as in the variety. The dorsal scales are constantly one-fourth or one-fifth smaller than in *Uta stansburiana*, and it should also be pointed out that the femoral pores are apparently fewer than the number given for the typical form by Cope,* Van Denburgh† and Ruthven.‡

Habits.—We found this *Uta* only in the spurs of the Cortez Range and in the River Range at Moleen Canyon. In the former locality it was not common, but in Moleen Canyon it occurred in some numbers. It was closely confined to the vicinity of rocks. Occasional specimens were found on the ground, but the majority were on the large rocks along the cliffs, upon which it climbs with all the facility of *Sceloporus biserialis*, which frequents the same habitat. The stomach contents of two specimens are made up of insects and spiders. Females taken on July 6 contained large eggs, others taken on July 8 contained no eggs, which would indicate that they were laid about this time. On August 14 the young were seen for the first time. On this date four individuals between 22–24 mm. in body length were found on the ground between the large rocks in Moleen Canyon. They were very agile and when alarmed quickly sought shelter under loose stones.

* Cope, E. D., Crocodilians, Lizards and Snakes of North America. Rept. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1898 (1900), p. 308.

† Van Denburgh, J. The Reptiles of the Pacific Coast and Great Basin. Occ. Papers Calif. Acad. Sci., V (1897), p. 67.

‡ Ruthven, A. G. A Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians from Southern New Mexico and Arizona. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXIII, pp. 529–530.